CONSTRUCTION UPDATE
Meridian Mission Statement

Meridian School will provide an invigorating educational environment that develops responsible citizens who can artfully navigate our complex world and enjoy a good life with others. Each student will engage in diverse investigations, disciplined inquiry, and integrated service learning to cultivate intercultural awareness, creativity and mental acuity.

Guiding Question

How can we encourage student agency (fully engaging in and taking ownership of their learning)? How can standards based grading promote student agency and a growth mindset?

Karalei
What is a Growth Mindset?

“In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.”

Psychologist Carol Dweck

Mindset: The New Psychology of Success

https://www.edglossary.org/growth-mindset/
What is Standards-Based Grading?

- Grades based upon learning objectives / standards, with a rubric assessing each standard.
- As much as possible, the grade should represent the student’s current level of learning mastery, without mixing in other factors
  - Such as
    - Effort
    - Participation
    - Timeliness
  - Student progress on these non-academic factors might be reported, but not mixed with the academic grade
SBG and IB

- The IB curriculum framework has been influenced by Standards Based Grading educational philosophy
  - Rubrics for each assessment criterion
  - End of year MYP grade and DP predicted grade based upon current student level of achievement, not an average over the past year.
Agency and Advocacy

- We can shift the focus from the GRADE to the LEARNING
  - “Well, what can she do to bring up her grade?” to “What are the skills and areas she should be practicing more to help her achieve the standards?”
  - Grades should not be used as a reward.

- Standards based grading
  - Students realize that they have a clear goal with mastering the standards and can embrace their learning
    - setting goals, receiving feedback from teachers, working hard, reassessment
  - Offering flexibility for students to PROVE their mastery of a criterion increases student agency.
    - Reassessment can mean revision, retest, or replacement with another assessment grade.
    - Students take responsibility for internalizing feedback as an opportunity to improve learning.
Social and Emotional Benefits

- Knowing that reassessment can improve a grade should reduce the stakes of assessment, and therefore unneeded stress for students.
  - Focus is on successful learning, not stress of making the grade the first (and only) time.
- Allowing reassessment will reduce the need for assessing “to get grades for the gradebook”, reducing stress of workload for teachers as well as students.
Current Focus of Experimentation

Though SBG includes many ideas that Meridian teachers have been experimenting with, such as

- Not penalizing an academic grade for the behavior of turning work in late
- Dropping formative grades that don’t represent a student’s overall level of mastery

In our current stage of experimentation we will focus upon

- Fostering student agency and growth mindset towards learning by providing opportunities for reassessment on summatives, up to a maximum criterion mark of 8/8 (i.e. 100/100).
Grade Reporting - 5th-8th ABC

Rationale:

● Have students focus on mastery of assigned work
● Reduce stress around specific grades through middle school
● Reduce requests for extra-curricular work
● Focus on Learning
Proposed Grading Progression

K-4
4 Descriptors - Advanced/Proficient/Developing/Below Expectations
+ Written Comments

5-8
2019 - 2020
ABC Reporting - 5th Grade

2020 - 2021
ABC Reporting - 6th-8th

9-12
Alpha and Numeric Grades
Expected Path to our Goal

2018-2019

SBG Experimentation

2019-2020

ABC Reporting - 5th Grade
SBG Structured Practice/Trials

2020-2021

ABC Reporting - Grades 6-8
Implementation of Policy
Parent Communication

Charles
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Friday, May 17
8:30-9:30am
Mays Cafe

Heartfelt THANKS to our volunteers!